

I support media diversity

Re: Docket No. 02-277; The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

I am a journalism student, and many times am embarrassed to tell people that. The reason is that, in the last five years, journalism, (radio, television, and print), for the most part has turned into mainly sensationalism with very little real news. Today, if one wants REAL news, they must read what many consider to be RADICAL magazines, such as "Mother Jones," "The Nation," "U.S. News and World Report," and others. If one wants to view REAL news, they have to go outside of this country to watch the B.B.C., which used to be considered inferior to our news gathering because our journalists had more protections than theirs did, thus, giving American journalists more incentive to dig for the truth.

I certainly feel that the deregulation of news sources has already hurt the democratic process by allowing corporate interests (the station and newspaper owners) decide what is important to report, and what is not; by giving us a dose of their political leanings and of their political agenda every time we take in their "news."

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

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